

GANG LEADER SLAIN, BUT HE SAVES FAMILY

Shot Down While Fleeing to
Draw Crossfire From
Own Auto.

By United Press

NEW YORK, June 20.—Killers of Charles (Vannie) Higgins, "lobster-man" mackerel fisherman and rum runner, shot down while drawing a gangster crossfire away from his family, were unknown today.

The "roughneck" racketeer, who had beaten fourteen charges in his efforts to muscle into a position of prominence in New York gangland, died today of "get the dirty rats" who shot him and "tried to wipe out his family," but he didn't name them.

He died Sunday afternoon. He was shot early Sunday morning after fulfilling a promise to attend a dance recital with his 7-year-old daughter, Jean, a dancing school pupil.

The easy-going Higgins walked to the street with the girl's hand in his. His wife and mother-in-law were about ten feet distant. An automobile load of gangsters opened fire.

Flees to Save Family

Higgins shoved the little girl against his sixteen-cylindered roadster, ducked, and started zig-zagging down the street to draw attention from his family.

Another car load of executioners caught him in the crossfire.

Patrolman Walter Herzer, with Higgins in the navy, picked up the gangster, but he arrived too late to witness the shooting.

The career of the racketeer was rather unusual, although it ended in the usual manner.

Higgins was not a "spender," a Broadway night life character, although he figured in at least one cutting scrape a year or more ago.

Likes Expensive Neckties

His big weakness, friends said, was expensive neckties which he wore when he didn't appear in a tannet shirt open at the neck.

He always denied rum running activities.

Once he was caught on a tug with members of his crew and charged by the coast guard with directing operations of the million-dollar rum fleet of Atlantic City from that tug.

"I'm just a lobster fisherman, an admiral in the lobster fleet," Higgins told them.

Another time he announced that he was too drunk to know who he was when he didn't appear in a tannet shirt open at the neck.

With Many Racketeers

Once he was "just a carpenter," and another time "a mackerel fisherman," but never was he a rum runner, or a killer, although eight homicide charges had been placed against him.

Higgins was an associate of Jack (Legs) Diamond.

He had worked with O'ney Madden, Broadway figure.

He had worked with Ben Sternberg, rum runner, who stepped into an automobile with Higgins one day at Long Beach, and never was seen again.

He was a rival of Augie Pisano's Brooklyn beer mob.

He had been involved with New Jersey beer runners.

He had "muscled in" on any and all wherever profits could be had.

Higgins' killers were sought today among those men he had worked and worked with.

SEEK 1933 CONVENTION

Indianapolis to Make Bid for International Lions Parley.

Indianapolis will make a bid for the 1933 international Lions convention.

Delegates to the 1932 convention, to be held in Los Angeles, July 19 to 22, were urged at a meeting Sunday in the Washington to work for the convention.

An all-state Lions band, directed by J. G. Eberly of Remington, will boom Indianapolis hopes to gain the convention site at the 1932 meeting.

Ninety-six clubs of Indiana will aid the Indianapolis organization in its fight to bring the convention here.

Eight thousand delegates would be attracted to the city by the convention.

CLUB TO HONOR BUTLER

Plans Dinner for Ornithologist at Noblesville Temple.

Dinner will be held Friday night by the Hamilton County Nature Study Club in honor of Dr. Amos W. Butler, Indianapolis ornithologist, at Noblesville Masonic temple.

He is the third person to be honored by the club. Dr. W. S. Blatchley and Dr. Stanley Coulter having been honored previously.

Dr. Butler is founder of the Indiana Audubon Society, the Indiana Academy of Science, the American Forestry Association, the Society of Mammalogists, and is a pioneer social worker in Indiana.

PINCH GANG SUSPECT

Last of five men accused of stealing clothing valued at \$2,000 from a laundry and three cleaning shops, is in custody. He is Reuben Fox, 744 North West street, returned Sunday from Dayton, O., where he was arrested last week.

Others held are L. D. Whitlock, 438 West Fifteenth street; Perry Jackson, 1332 Roosevelt avenue; his brother Edward, 615 Ogden street, and Sam Perkins, 714 North West street.

PET MONKEY MEANS TROUBLE IN YOUR HOME

Bears Also Lose Sweet Temper, Grow Grouchy, After Passing Cub Stage

For thirty-three years Raymond L. Dittmars has lived among wild animals in the jungle but in the midst of New York City. During that time he has been curator of reptiles and mammals at Bronx Park. This is one of a series of articles on the animals which are no less exciting because they did not take place in the heart of Africa.

BY WILLIAM ENGLE
Times-World Staff Writer
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"IT'S that man with squirrel trouble," said Dr. Raymond L. Dittmars as he hung up the telephone. "He's a sad case. Almost as sad as the copperhead lady."

Of course, after that he had to explain.

He lighted his thin-stemmed pipe, closed the window against the Bronx park's peacock's plaint and spoke a while of the strange requests and suggestions with which the metropolitan public favors the New York Zoological Society.

"The squirrel trouble man lives in Westchester," he said. "He has a fine house, good grounds, family, all the common aspects of comfort. But gray squirrels are making him old before his time."

"They put his lights out, eating insulation off the wires. They keep him awake nights, chewing in the trees. Now he says he ran into four of them in the cellar today and they were looking for a fight."

Dr. Dittmars told him to get state permission to shoot and trap; he got it, along with copious literature telling him how to set his snares; but the squirrels keep coming. As a last resort he hopes his peers will let him try poison.

"But the copperhead woman's predicament is even worse."

Her house must have been built on a snake pit. Rattlesnakes and copperheads. The rattlesnakes don't bother her much, but the copperheads infest the house.

"She says they look so much like a pattern in her carpet she can't distinguish them. They give a turn sometimes."

He told her that attrition by trap or poison would be futile, that the best thing she could do would be to have the grounds around her home cleared, underbrush removed, rock less that might appeal to snakes ripped out.

"She kept on writing, though. She thought there must be something she could do besides that. Finally she told us she'd concluded we didn't know what we were up to."

So he wrote her the only other suggestion he could make was to get a carpet with a new design.

Her trouble wasn't extraordinary. Snakes venture out over a radius of several miles in summer, but as fall comes on they invariably get back to the pit they know as home. They never change their permanent shelter.

"I know some pits where they've lived for thirty years. I go back every once in a while to study them or to get one."

Some pits have been snake homes for hundreds of years. Some, I believe, for thousands of years. I've seen rocks worn smooth by snake bodies."

CALLS for help in freeing humans from the designs of wild creatures come to him often, but not so often as the calls from those who keep wild creatures as pets.

"What shall I do for my monkey with rickets?" It is a frequent, anxious query.



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Monkeys in maturity are always dangerous pets, says Dr. Dittmars.

have around in the friskiness of youth.

But maturity turns amiability into jealousy. He tells owners that a grownup monkey may regard even a friend's greeting as reason for a sudden, purposeful attack.

As tactfully as he can he lays down the ultimatum that they are not safe pets.

"Maturity makes pet bears rather poor companions, too. One man wrote me his bear was getting him into a fix. It had been a fine, playful cub. But as it grew older, it began to disturb the neighbors. It bawled all night."

"I found it used to sleep in the house, but when it outgrew the living room they put it out in the backyard."

"It couldn't get along without the domestic atmosphere and cuddling. I had to tell them they'd either have to let it bawl or take a chance with it again inside with them."

He sympathizes. For he has always had from one to 100 pets of his own—just now the favorite is a king snake he keeps in his library—and for years, up and down the world, his daughter Gladys and Red, a howling monkey, were inseparable companions.

The frankly curious, of course, are responsible for the park's majority of questions.

"Please tell us how the elephant sleeps."

"Standing up. In twenty-two years neither the night watchman nor I have ever seen him lie down."

"Is the sloth always that way?"

"Yes, he spends his whole life hanging upside down."

"Does the ant eat really eat ants?"

"Every once in a while about a quarter of a million."

"I've something for the park. Really, I never saw anything like it before. A snake with a gold necklace."

"Thanks, just the same. But it's pale gray, opalescent, isn't it? It's a ring snake. The necklace is a kind of orange-colored ring. There are a good many in these parts coming out in the spring."

CROSSWORD puzzles have been particularly frequent clients by mail and telephone this spring. The curator thinks they have been in a contest, so many have queried about a single word.

"They wanted to know the name for a 'shook sheep'."

He had to confess that stumped him, and all he could do was suggest they call the shepherd in Central park.

Another wanted the five-letter name of "an animal that is a reptile and spelled something like skunk." She had passed up "skunk," she said, because she understood skunks were not reptilian.

"You're thinking of a notched-tongued lizard," Dr. Dittmars advised. "It's one of the Scincus officinalis and it's called a skink."

Blue-eyed John Cromartie, 27, five feet eleven inches, was not dealt with so easily. He wanted to enter the zoo as a specimen, and his proposal, made back in 1924, still echoes occasionally in closets where the talk turns to anthropology.

The collection of animals was not complete, lacking an example of Homo sapiens, he pointed out, and he offered to stop the gap.

IT would complete the collection," his proposal said, "and it would impress upon the mind of the visitor a comparison which is not always quick to make for himself."

"If placed in a cage between the orang-utan and the chimpanzee, an ordinary member of the human race would arrest the attention of every one who entered the large apes' house."

"Every child would grow up imbued with the outlook of a Darwin, and would become aware not only of his own exact place in the animal kingdom, but also in what he differed from the apes."

"I would suggest that such a specimen be shown as far as possible in his natural surroundings as he exists at the present time."

"That is to say, in ordinary costume and employed in some ordinary pursuit. Thus his cage should be furnished with chairs and a table and with bookcases."

"To show my good faith, I beg to offer myself for exhibition, subject to certain reservations which will not be found of an unreasonable nature."

The offer was declined.

BLAZING TORCH SCATTERS COPS

Races Through Station
With Flaming Umbrella.

Matt Vanderer, 1241 North Pennsylvania street, rushed pell mell through a police station corridor today waving a flaming torch above his head.

"Hey, lookout, gimmie room," he cried.

A milling throng of persons at the exit of a municipal courtroom formed a lane for the running figure.

Vanderer reached the head of the stairs leading down to the first floor. He gave a leap, landing half way down, then leaped again. The flames licked perilously near his face.

Out of door of the police station Vanderer ran, smoke and excited police and spectators trailing behind him. Vanderer swung north in Alabama street to an alley beside headquarters. He dashed into the alley toward a puddle led by rain early today.

Vanderer dropped the torch into the puddle, where the flames sizzled and died.

To questioners, Vanderer revealed he had visited a friend in the prosecutor's office, and that while talking he thoughtlessly attempted to extinguish a cigaret by tamping it with the tip of his umbrella.

The umbrella tip was made of celluloid.

Three Die in Plane Crash

OTTAWA, Ill., June 20.—Three men died here Sunday in the crash of a plane piloted by Harry Hill, 30, Streator. The dead were Hill, John Marshall, 20, of San Francisco, and Bert Lorenz, 21, Streator.

Representatives of the coal mining industry of Indiana and Illinois will meet in Indianapolis Wednesday to determine whether a joint conference of mine operators and workers shall be assembled to negotiate a wage agreement for both states, according to a call issued today by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America.

The Lewis message to representatives of the operators and workers invited two delegates from each group.

The message was sent to the presidents of the Indiana Coal Operators' Association, Illinois Coal Operators' Association and Districts 11 and 12, U. M. W. A.

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GOLF WINNERS TO RECEIVE AWARDS

Marble Champion Also to
Get His Prize at Lyric
Theater Tuesday.

Winners of prizes in the recent Indianapolis Times schoolboy golf tournament will receive their trophies and prizes will be given Richard Keil, runner-up, and the other semi-finalists and quarter finalists in the championship fight.

Robert O'Connor, grade school champion and Tom David, winner of the championship consolation

fight, will be rewarded, as will runners-up and losing quarter finalists in these fights.

Another feature will be the medal presentation to Billy Dyer, who Friday won the city-wide Indianapolis Times marble championship. He will leave Friday for the east, to compete in the national marble championship.

All prize winners will be on the stage and Manager A. J. Kalberer of the Lyric will have all the other boys who qualified in the three fights, but who did not win prizes, as his guests for the show. Every boy who gets a ticket or prize must be at The Times office, 214 West Maryland street, at 7:15 p. m. to receive his ticket.

The presentation of the prizes will be made after the vaudeville performance, which ends at 8 p. m. Complete list of prize winners will appear in the Times sports page Tuesday.

SHARKEY-SCHMELING

FIGHT GOING ON AIR

McNamee to Broadcast Big Fight From Ringside.

Battle between Max Schmelling and Jack Sharkey for the world's heavyweight championship Tuesday night at 8 (Central Standard Time) at Madison Square Garden, will be carried live by blow by the National Broadcasting Company and a nationwide network of stations.

Graham McNamee, assisted by Charles Francis Cox, author of numerous fight stories, will alternate in describing the fight.

Stations certain of carrying the broadcast are: WENR, WTAM, WSM, WSB, WDAF, and WBAP. Other stations of the NBC chain probably will join the hookup as all commercial programs for the time of the fight have been canceled.

SPEND FOURTH OF JULY AT NIAGARA FALLS

A wonderful two days' vacation

\$7.50 Round Trip

Good in Sleeping Cars at Reduced Pullman Fares

Leave Saturday, July 2

Total cost of round trip railroad ticket and round trip berth (including occupancy during stay at Niagara Falls).

One person to lower berth.....\$15.50

Two persons to lower berth (each).....\$12.00

One person to upper berth.....\$14.00

Two persons to upper berth (each).....\$11.00